

# ASTHMA

Asthma is a chronic lung disease caused by airway inflammation which causes airflow obstruction. Approximately 15 million people in the United States have asthma. Asthma is responsible for 500,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths<sup>i</sup> a year in the nation. Asthma also influences quality of life by restricting activities of people with asthma for 134 million days a year<sup>i</sup>. Although not much is known about how to prevent asthma, effective asthma management by patients and their health care providers can reduce or prevent most of the problems caused by the disease.

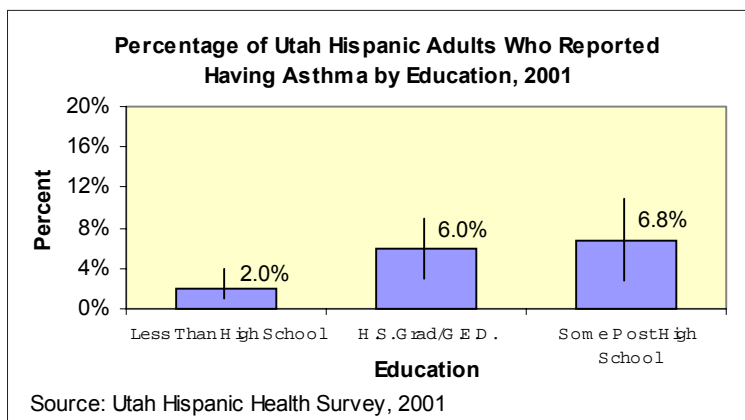
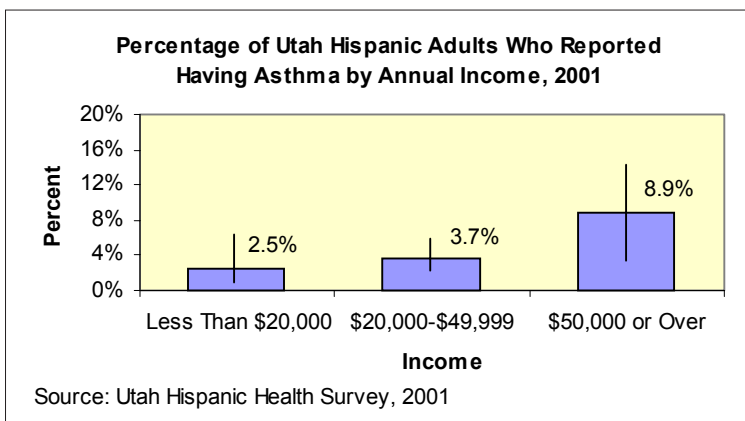
In Utah, about 5% of the population were estimated to have asthma (115,000 Utahns)<sup>ii</sup>, and some 5,300 persons went to an emergency room because of asthma during 1998<sup>iii</sup>.

Nationally, the current asthma prevalence rate was lower for Hispanics (5.2 per 100) than for any other race or ethnicity groups (White/Non Hispanic: 7.4; Black Non-Hispanic: 8.5; Other Non-Hispanic: 6.6) during the year 2000<sup>iv</sup>.

The 2001 Utah Hispanic Health Survey shows that 4.2 of every 100 adult Hispanics in Utah have asthma. This is a slightly lower than for White, Non-Hispanic population (5.5 per 100). Utah's adult Hispanics with higher income (\$50,000 or more/year) are more likely to have asthma than those with less income (less than \$20,000 a year). The survey also found that Utah's adult Hispanics with higher education (at least high school graduate or G.E.D.) are more likely to have asthma currently than those with lower (less than high school) education.

More persons with asthma reported being limited in their regular activities because of their poor physical health than those without asthma. The average monthly days that people's usual activities were limited because of their poor physical health were longer (10.5 days) for persons with asthma than for those without asthma (8.5).

These findings can guide future activities for public health interventions targeting Utah's Hispanics with asthma.



**Healthy People 2010 Objective:** reduce asthma deaths (First of 9 asthma objectives). Adults aged 65+ years: 60 deaths per 1 million

**U.S. Baseline** (adults aged 65+ years): 86 per 1 million, HP 2010, 1998

**Utah Objective** same as Healthy People 2010 Objective

**Utah Baseline** (adults aged 65+ years): 110 per 1 million, Utah Death Certificate Data, 1999

**Percentage of Utah Hispanic Adults by Days of Limited Activities, 2001**

Average number of days when physical health was not good during past 20 days	12.6*	11.1*
Average number of days when poor physical health kept persons from usual activities	10.5*	8.5*

\* statistically significant at 95% confidence level.

<sup>i</sup> National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Data Fact Sheet. National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, 1999

<sup>ii</sup> 2001, Utah Health Status Survey. Utah Department of Health

<sup>iii</sup> 1998, Utah Emergency Department Data. Utah Department of Health

<sup>iv</sup> 2000, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. CDC

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## Survey Question(s):

### Percentage of Persons Who Reported Ever Being Told by a Health Professional That They Have Asthma

by Selected Demographic Characteristics, Utah Hispanic Survey 2001

Demographic Subgroup	Utah Adult Hispanic Population		Survey Estimates of Respondents Who Reported Ever Being Told by a Health Professional That They Have Asthma					
	Distribution	Number of Persons <sup>1</sup>	Percentage of Persons Reported Ever Being Told by a Health Professional That They Have Asthma <sup>2</sup>			Distribution of Persons Who Reported Ever Being Told by a Health Professional That They Have Asthma by Category		
			95% Confidence Intervals		Number of Persons <sup>1,3</sup>			
			Lower	Upper				
Told Have Asthma								
Yes	4.2%	5,181						
No	95.8%	118,183						
Total, All Adults	100.0%	123,364						
Sex								
Males	54.6%	67,385	3.4%	2.1%	5.7%	2,300		44.2%
Females	45.4%	55,979	5.1%	3.0%	7.3%	2,900		55.8%
Total, All Adults	100.0%	123,364	4.2%	3.0%	5.8%	5,200		100.0%
Age Group								
18 to 34	58.5%	72,183	3.5%	2.1%	5.8%	2,500		48.1%
35 to 49	26.9%	33,185	4.2%	2.3%	7.8%	1,400		26.9%
50 to 64	10.7%	13,246	6.2%	2.4%	9.9%	800		15.4%
65 or Over	3.9%	4,750	***	***	***	***		***
Total, All Adults	100.0%	123,364	4.2%	3.0%	5.8%	5,200		100.0%
Income								
Less Than \$20,000	19.7%	24,354	2.5%	1.0%	6.3%	600		11.32%
\$20,000-\$49,999	64.4%	79,472	3.7%	2.4%	5.9%	3,000		56.60%
\$50,000 or Over	15.8%	19,539	8.9%	3.5%	14.4%	1,700		32.08%
Total, All Adults	100.0%	123,364	4.2%	3.0%	5.8%	5,200		100.0%
Education								
Less Than High School	40.3%	49,757	2.0%	1.0%	4.0%	1,000		19.2%
H.S. Grad or G.E.D.	31.6%	38,974	6.0%	3.0%	8.9%	2,300		44.2%
Some Post High School	17.5%	21,645	6.8%	2.8%	10.8%	1,500		28.8%
College Graduate	10.5%	12,988	***	***	***	***		***
Total, All Adults	100.0%	123,364	4.2%	3.1%	5.8%	5,200		100.0%
Area								
Urban	85.0%	104,906	4.4%	3.1%	6.2%	4,600		88.5%
Rural	9.7%	12,006	***	***	***	***		***
Frontier	5.2%	6,451	***	***	***	***		***
Total, All Adults	100.0%	123,364	4.2%	3.0%	5.8%	5,200		100.0%

1 Rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

2 Plus or minus 95% confidence interval

3 Figures in these columns may not sum to the total because of missing values on the grouping variables.